

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 12568 211249Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07
EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 /120 W
----- 079742 /53

O R 211217Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2647
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, EFIS, PLOS, FR
SUBJECT: US SHRIMP FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF: PARIS 37507

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL WE CALLED ON GALLAGHER TO REPORT
FRENCH INTENTION EXTEND JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES OFF GUAINA
ON JANUARY 1 AND TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT.
GALLAGHER SAID HE WAS STILL UNINFORMED ABOUT FRENCH INTENTION,
BUT REAFFIRMED THAT, SHOULD THEY EXTEND, AREA WILL FALL WITHIN
COMPETENCE OF COMMON FISHERIES POLICY AND THEREFORE TO
COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH US. HE HOPED THAT,
PENDING AN AGREEMENT, EC COULD SIMPLY TELL US THAT WE CAN
CONTINUE TO FISH AS WE PREVIOUSLY HAD FOR INITIAL 3 MONTH
PERIOD, BUT SAID THAT HE MAY NEED EXPLICIT COUNCIL AUTHORITY
TO DO SO. FIRST COUNCIL TO WHICH HE COULD BRING SUCH
PROPOSAL WILL BE IN MID-JANUARY.
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2. GALLAGHER AGREED IT WOULD BE UNFAIR AND UNWISE TO
ENFORCE JURISDICTION EARLY JANUARY SIMPLY BECAUSE COUNCIL HAD
NOT MET, AND SAID HE WOULD URGENTLY LOOK INTO OTHER LEGAL
OPTIONS. IN MEANTIME, HE ASKED WE SUPPLY ASAP FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:

- A) HOW MANY US BOATS WANT TO FISH IN THE AREA; HOW MUCH DO THEY CATCH AND WHAT SPECIES?
B) WHICH TIMES DURING THE YEAR DO US BOATS FISH OFF GUIANA?

3. COMMENT: CLEARLY, IF THE FISHERY INVOLVES OPERATIONS IN JANUARY, THE PROBLEM OF LICENSING BOATS IS BOTH URGENT AND MORE COMPLICATED THAN IF IT OCCURS LATER IN YEAR. FURTHER, UNTIL FRENCH FORMALLY NOTIFY COMMISSION THAT ZONE OFF GUIANA HAS BEEN EXTENDED, COMMISSION CANNOT ACT AT ALL. AS MINIMUM, WE NEED TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY WHETHER US VESSELS FISH AREA IN JANUARY. END COMMENT

4. GALLAGHER REAFFIRMED COMMISSION WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH US ON US FISHERIES IN EC WATERS. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS FORMALLY UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:
IN ADDITION TO SUPPLYING INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 2 AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, WE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO DELIVER FORMAL NOTE TO COMMISSION (TEXT TO BE SUPPLIED BY WASHINGTON) ASKING FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON AGREEMENT TO FISH IN EC WATERS, SO THAT WE ARE FORMALLY ON RECORD BEFORE JANUARY 1. NOTE SHOULD REFER TO CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 13-14, DURING WHICH US REPS DECLARED US READINESS TO OPEN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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